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Navels and nipples pierced in Sanctuary.

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28th Year — No. 32

Kitchener, Ontario

September 23, 1996

MacIsaac strikes musical chord

By Linda Reilly

Cape Bretoner Ashley MacIsaac brought his Celtic rock, hip-hop blend of music to Conestoga's Doon campus Sept. 12.

Dressed in army boots, combat pants and a T-shirt, the 21-year-old supercharged MacIsaac played his down-east fiddle music to a largely female audience of over 400.

MacIsaac, who said he has a healthy respect for fiddle music, adds step dancing and floor stomping to the traditional music.

He said he plays the fiddle the same way he learned. "It's only the presentation that's different."

MacIsaac has been playing the time-honored Cape Breton sound since he was eight and a half years old.

He grew up in Creignish in Inverness County on the east-coast island and became a legend there.

MacIsaac first began taking step-dancing lessons at six, and started playing the fiddle shortly after.

He says he was torn between his allegiance to traditional music and his desire to gain a new audience for fiddle music.

"I had to create my own music and that music had to stand by itself," said MacIsaac.

The fiddle player has been on the road for 4 1/2 years but will be taking some time off after his tour ends in October.

"I've finally saved enough money to start my house," he said.

MacIsaac, who's very money conscious, said he shops a lot at Salvation Army stores. "You can buy a lot for \$40 at the Sally Ann."

MacIsaac also said he hopes to take a vacation in Mexico after he plays a show in San Diego in December.

"Nothing is finalized yet," he said, "but Mexico would be my first choice."

MacIsaac will finish his Canadian tour in British Colombia next month when he plays the duMaurier Festival.

Asked in an interview before the concert about his plans for the future, MacIsaac said he had no idea. "Things just happen."

MacIsaac has a lot of interests, including doing a talk show, becoming a TV host and perhaps writing a book.

He also said he is looking forward to getting a digital Sharp camera with Avid Editor and making videos. "Even I could do that. It's simpler than pounding my body for an hour and a half a night."

See back page for profile on Ashley MacIsaac's guitarist.



STOMPIN' GOOD TIME — Cape Bretoner Ashley MacIsaac fiddled the afternoon away bringing his Celtic rock hip-hop music to students at Conestoga's Doon campus Sept. 12. (Photo by Linda Reilly)

The Net comes to Conestoga

School lacks capacity for full Internet use

By Peggy Sue Ironside

Student access to the Internet will be available within the next month, says the principal of Conestoga's Doon campus.

"It's a question of how we manage the parts and the money to do it," said Grant McGregor. "We've got to get it for you. There's no doubt."

McGregor said he thinks the college has a responsibility to give its students some basic training on the Internet because it is one of the tools students will have to learn how to use.

"We may not be able to provide all of the things that are coming out on the Internet, because we simply don't have the money, the server space, or all the things to make it accessible," he said. "And that's where we will have to start to make some hard choices."

An Internet lab is being set up beside the learning resource centre (LRC), McGregor said, but not

all students will have access right away.

"I have asked the chairs of each program to identify what would be high priority access for students," said McGregor.

Although a number of problems have been dealt with, there are still issues that need to be looked after, said McGregor. "Internet protocol demands that we must be able to identify who is logged on and using the service."

Because the Internet has become a type

of electronic publishing medium, it is open to people who put out pornography, hate mail and other controversial subjects.

McGregor said if someone is using the Internet for illegal purposes, there has to be a way of coding the access, and the college still doesn't have the software to do it. "It's a fairly complex thing and will prob-

"One of the first things that most people do is deny access to anyone who violates the Criminal Code, which is absolutely logical and something you have to do."

"We're not saying you can't look at it. We simply can't provide the band width—the space to transmit that data—because it's plugging up legitimate research."

McGregor said a future problem to be considered is the possibility that students will not be able to gain access for research purposes if other students are using the system as a personal activity.

"We don't have the telephone capacity at this point to do it."

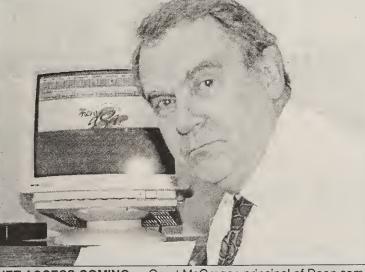
Technically, the school is operating a 56K telephone line, which has a limited capacity for carrying information.

On the other end of the spectrum, the University of Waterloo has a T-1 line: an expense of \$70,000 yearly.

McGregor said the University of Waterloo, which is probably as advanced as any

institution in Canada with computer equipment and facilities, is looking at limiting certain news groups because it is having trouble pulling all the requested data down onto its servers.

The university has so many bits of information coming through that administration has had to analyze the type of Internet usage being employed, and has had to discuss what kind of information is academically essential for the university.



NET ACCESS COMING — Grant McGregor, principal of Doon campus, says an Internet lab is being set up. (Photo by Peggy Sue Ironside)

ably cost more than \$100,000 to set up," he said.

McGregor said a roster system will probably be the inital setup for keeping track of who is accessing the Internet service.

After the required software is installed, the program will record Internet use with identification numbers.

McGregor said he researched between 30 and 40 different college and university policies regarding Internet access.

Run-off goes underground

By Bryce Wilson

September has been unseasonably wet. Environment Canada reported more than 100 millimetres of rainfall in parts of Lambton and Kent counties because of the passing of Hurricane Fran's tail end.

All the rain may seem just a hindrance to students, but it can cause problems and Conestoga has a complicated system set up to control overflow water.

According to Dave Putt, director of physical resources, the problem with all the rain is that it just settles on parking lots and buildings because it can't be absorbed. The college can't just put it down the sewer, because bylaws restrict mixing sewage and rainwater, and the college isn't allowed to dump it off the property.

"If you look at all the parking lots and all the buildings," says Putt, "probably we're collecting, during a major storm, thousands of gallons of water. What do you do with it?"

One answer might be to pump the water into the pond behind the college.

But according to Putt, since the pond was built (in 1967), silt, dead plant growth and leaves have sunk to the bottom and slowed the water absorption rate so that it can't handle all the run-off. In fact, the pond has to be pumped out during heavy periods of rain or melting.

There's a drain at the west end of the pond that controls the level of water. When the water gets high enough to reach the drain, it's automatically pumped underneath the school past Door 5.

It joins the rest of the stormwater from the parking lots and is pumped out to the east end of the school property. There's a pond on the far side of Lot 3 that acts as a reservoir for the water.

When that pond gets too high, there's a flood control gate that leads to a stormwater retention pond, which can't be seen because it's underground.

The underground pond was built



OVERFLOW — David Putt, director of physical resources, stands by the drain that controls the level of the pond and leads to an underground water retention system. (Photo by Bryce Wilson)

between 1992 and 1995 at a cost of \$87,417, said Putt.

First, the area had to be dug out, then filled with large boulders. Next, pipes were laid down and covered with clean gravel.

A filter cloth was placed on top and the whole area was covered over with sod. Today, all that can be seen is the control gate.

Every time the school puts in a new building or parking lot, the stormwater pipes have to be reviewed and, according to Putt, they're reaching their capacity. Retaining the stormwater is no problem, but the pipes that bring it to the retention pond are already being used to their maximum.

resolve the issue.

The school has diverters built into the line to give the pipes a chance to handle the water. Behind the student client services building in Lot 8, there is a diverter. During a heavy downpour, water comes out the sewer and floods the area. Once the water pressure dies down, the water drains away.

New buildings couldn't use the existing pipes, says Putt. A new line would have to be dug to carry the water to the retention pond. And if the college ever decided to build across the road, where it owns property, a new stormwater retention system would have to be built there

CORRECTION

In the story on Sue Johanson on page 3 in the Sept. 16 issue of Spoke, it was incorrectly report-

ed that Johanson is a medical doctor. She is a registered nurse. Spoke regrets the error.

Wrong book listed in bookstore mix-up

By Jennifer Dougall

Many second-year marketing students were shocked this September to find out from their teacher they had purchased the wrong text book for their retailing course.

"It was just a comedy of errors," said Steve Finlay, marketing program co-ordinator.

The book, which cost \$82.95 before taxes and has a computer disc included, was shown on the bookstore's list. But nobody is sure how it got there.

"There was a change to the course," said Finlay. The normally two-semester retailing course had recently been condensed into one.

A newer Canadian textbook was chosen to accommodate the change. The bookstore could not find the retailing book on their lists and decided to go back a semester to find the name of the book. They went back too far and ordered the wrong book.

Finlay contacted the bookstore and found out it would take the books back and return them to the publisher. The proper books should be in this week.

"Finlay worked it out that we'd get our money back no matter what," marketing student Nancy McKean said. "Even if the seal is broken, and even if you don't have a receipt."

However, there were some problems. "It took me a week to return my book because I opened my disk," Stephanie Proulx said.

For the few students who had marked up their books, the business department decided to take the books and reimburse the students. Those copies will probably go to the learning resource centre, Finlay said.

Finlay said the business department was willing to reimburse a few students the cost of their books, but not every student. He estimated it would have cost about \$5,700 to do so.

The book was American and could not easily be applied to Canadian retailing. But if more students had marked up their books, the American text would have been used.

New equipment a benefit

By Shawn Leonard

Doon campus has received several new pieces of woodworking equipment from the Guelph campus

The 13 pieces of shop equipment that have arrived at the woodworking centre are seen as a benefit to both the students and the teaching staff.

"Even though it is around five years old, they are still compatible with the machines we have here," said Don Franklin, a new member of the support staff for the woodworking centre.

The equipment will help the students by decreasing the backlog on most of the machines.

The equipment arrived in

The equipment arrived in August because the woodworking program will no longer be offered at the Guelph campus.

Franklin says the machines still have to be checked over to make sure they're in perfect running order.

Safety of the students, he says, is a priority.

Business student association creates Web site

By Sean S. Finlay

The Conestoga Business Students Association (CBSA) has now gone on line with its own home page.

Jeff Gobbo, vice-president of the CBSA, created the home page over a three-week period, putting in about 40 hours of work to provide business students everything from e-mail connections with faculty to a Guest of the Month section.

Gobbo designed the concept, but the CBSA executive wrote the content.

Gobbo said the site is not graphically enhanced. He said graphics could slow down the process of down-loading information and simplicity is better for speed than using up time with non-essential pictures.

The CBSA said they gave the site a political look, with issues discussed and problem-solving ideas with the VP's Beef of the Month section.

Students and faculty could send in their problems and, if the issue cannot be resolved, the issue becomes the beef.

Gobbo said if a student or faculty member could convince him the issue was worth the



PLUGGED IN — Jeff Gobbo, vice-president of Conestoga Business Students Association, displays the association's new Web site.

(Photo by Sean Finlay)

beef of the month, he would buy him lunch.

Beefs could range from the cost of student life to the general learning atmosphere. He said he would give it a fair shot to try to

"If stude would hel if I can,":
He said

"If students think a small or big change would help their education, I will help them if I can," said Gobbo.

He said any suggestions that are given to him can help him increase his focus and creativity on the site and as vice-president. Gobbo's idea for the site is to enhance the image of the school of business. He said the better the school, the better the graduate looks

The president of the CBSA, Stephan Babic, said one part of the site has a business card section where students who have their own business can swap jobs with other students.

The CBSA is going through MGL, an Internet service. It costs \$200 a year to maintain the CBSA's Web site.

A special discount was given to the CBSA because it is classified as a charitable organization.

Gobbo said he wants to see students get interested in the site and enter the draw to win a year's subscription on the Internet through MGL.

"In the first three weeks of the site, we have had over 400 logged in 'hits'," said Gobbo.

The CBSA Web site is available at cbsa@mgl.ca. Gobbo said it wouldn't be useful to students outside the business programs because of the content.

Business students to pay for unmarked computer paper

By Sean S. Finlay

Last year, Conestoga began scoring the printer rollers with the letter C to deter students from using the paper the school provides for school use.

Throughout the computer labs in the school, the letter C will print up on anything except those printed in the business and journalism

Conestoga tried before to stop personal use of the printers by using three-hole-punched paper, which didn't look presentable for resumes. But some students began bringing their own paper to print items like resumes, using the toner school.

The Conestoga Business Students Association (CBSA) bought their own computer labs with money from their fund-raising events. The printers in those labs ended up being scored too. Despite students providing their own paper to print resumes, the infamous letter C would still leave

Stephan Babic, president of CBSA, found out later that this was going on and asked computer services to remove the engraved rollers from the printers the business students bought and owned.

Babic said he feels the CBSA is

and equipment provided by the doing the school a favor by providing business students their own computer labs to alleviate the stress on the other computer labs open to the rest of the school.

> The C may have been removed from the business labs, but the school is expecting them now to provide their own paper for school assignments. "We're providing them (the school) a free lunch," said Babic. "Now they expect us to do the dishes as well."

Somewhere in every student's tuition, even a business student's, a percentage of tuition goes towards paying for computer equipment, toners and prepunched paper, all available for

student and faculty use.

Babic said he was concerned that information about the business computer labs having no C-scoring equipment would get out, despite round-the-clock monitoring done by security and CBSA executive.

It is required that every business student who uses the labs has a student card out in the open to be checked. Those who are not business students, are asked to leave.

"We have to look after our own," said Babic. "Funds are generated by business students. I don't even want to think about the rest of the school."

Deb Kunsch, communications

co-ordinator for the CBSA, said the CBSA last year raised close to \$50,000 through fund-raising events like almond sales and Biz Bashes, basically an organized party at selected bars throughout the year. The funds went mainly to support the business computer

Babic said this year's funds generated from fund-raising might go towards presentation equipment, like Powerpoint, a computer component designed to be used with overhead projectors, if the students are in favor.

He said the equipment would be free to business students on a sign-

Internet-related jobs likely to expand

By Peter Marval

The demand for better maintenance of information flowing through the Internet will likely cause the Web-page designing field to blossom, according to a part-time instructor at the college.

Ignac Kolenko, who has been designing Web sites for about a year and a half, is teaching a six-week night course on the basic fundamentals of preparing documents for browsing on the Net.

He said the Internet is reducing many of the traditional methods of gathering information by replacing encyclopedias and becoming valuable additions to newspapers and magazines.

"Information from anywhere in the world is available at people's fingertips, and the need for more people to place information

on the Net is growing," Kolenko said.
While the Internet industry may be blossoming, the goldmine was about a year ago. "We used to charge over \$1,000 a page. Now, pages go for around \$100, because everyone knows how to do it," said Kolenko, who operates his own business in Kitchener called Solution Tech Systems Inc.

That may change again. Kolenko said the basic knowledge of designing a Web page could be learned quickly. Artists and graphic designers have taken advantage of this to learn how to create highly graphical pages. As well, newer software allows for improved ease of Web page creations.

However, as the Internet becomes more

refined and people's needs more complex, Kolenko said programming skills will also be required.

"Programming databases and interactive facilities are tipping the scales back the other way," he said. "Even the best program will not give you the ability to query a database for people's names on the Net - that requires programming skills."

Kolenko, who has been in the computer industry for 13 years, said the best behindthe-scenes Internet programming skills to learn are C-programming, UNIX, shell scripting and Java.

He said these skills would better prepare Web designers for the big changes the Internet will go through when Rogers Cable will introduce cable attachments to the Internet. Cable will increase receiving speeds up to 10 times what they are now.

In addition, Bell Canada is also working on its existing system to increase speeds that may exceed those of Rogers.

"Things are changing so rapidly that people who gave up on it before because it was too slow, will eventually return," said Kolenko. He added that since the cost of computers can sometimes deter people from getting on line, within three to four years new television sets will come with Internet availability.

"In four to five years, everyone can afford to have the technology to have the fastest available link to the Internet."

While all this may sound expensive, Kolenko said competition among Internet providers would bring costs down.

LASA welcomes new students

By Jason Seads

Ryan Camp and Nicole Duffy decided something needed to be done about the student body in the law-and-security administration program (LASA).

"Registration day last year sucked," said Camp, "There were too many questions and not enough people to answer them."

Another problem Camp and Duffy found was that their class of about 150 broke off into little cliques within the first month of school.

The two recruited about 25 students and got their idea rolling.

The first thing they did was call all 150 students who were accepted into the program to welcome them and invite them to a tour of the school on registration day.

The important thing about the tour, said Camp, was that it was student-to-student

The next thing the second-year students did was make up their own student handbook, which was completely different from the faculty-produced handbook.

Bob Hays, program co-ordinator for LASA, thought the idea was great from

'I couldn't be more pleased. I have been here a long time, and it's tough enough to run the academic part without worrying about the social aspect."

What Hays said he found most interesting was that if faculty had asked the students to do this, they wouldn't have. "This came from the students."

Hays said the booklet was also a good idea. "It's their own booklet in their own

To help the new students get along, the booklet include a personality profile of each teacher in LASA.

"They described our personalities to a tee," Hays said.

Chairman of student services, Jack Fletcher, said Conestoga needs more of this student involvement and initiative.

"If the student has a contact they can approach, everything will get better. The idea of senior students helping out firstyear students is very beneficial."

One of the first-year students Camp and Duffy helped was Steve Perry.

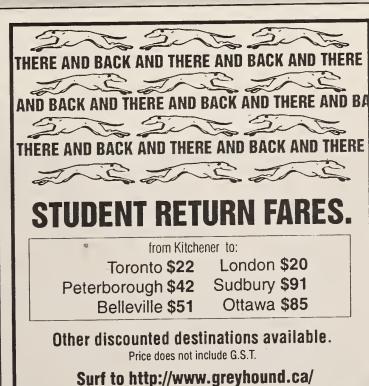
"They made me feel very welcome. They took the pressure off the first day of school."

Perry said the tour, which consisted of one second-year student to five first-year students, helped with finding classrooms, a small but thorny problem.

"The faculty's hands are tied — they have their own tasks. Even if we failed, I still think we tried hard and I am proud of what

The welcoming team planned a Canada's Wonderland Day for Sept. 15, which is another switch from last year when the LASA student body did almost nothing together as a group.





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COMMENTARY

Editor	Diana Loveless
News editor	Scott Nixon
Student life editor	Sean S. Finlay
Issues and activities editor	Doug Coxson
Photo editor	Peter Marval
Production manager	Bruce Manion
Advertising manager	Eric Whitfield
Circulation manager	Jason Romanko
Faculty supervisors	Jerry Frank & Dick Scott

SPOKE

"Keeping Conestoga College Connected"

299 Doon Valley Dr., Room 4B15 Kitchéner, Ontario, N2G 4M4 Phone: 748-5366 Fax: 748-5971

SPOKE is published and produced weekly by journalism students of Conestoga College. SPOKE is mainly funded from September to May by the Doon Student Association (DSA). The views and opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the views of Conestoga College or the DSA.

Advertisers in SPOKE are not endorsed by the DSA unless their advertisements con-

tain the DSA logo. SPOKE shall not be liable for any damages arising out of errors in advertising beyond the amount paid for the space.

Unsolicited submissions must be sent to the editor at the above address by 9:30 a.m. Monday, Submissions are subject to acceptance or rejection and should be clearly written or typed; a WordPerfect 5.0 file would be helpful. Submissions must not contain any libellous statements and may be accompanied by an illustration (such as a

What role does Conestoga play in your life?

By Jason Seads

Is there anything to do at Conestoga other than

Surely, as students pour from the front doors seconds after classes end, some must wish something had happened worth telling your roommates about. Some must wish there was something at school worth staying for.

Well, one of the best kept secrets at Conestoga is that there are a lot of activities going on that are worth staying for.

Although it seems that every ounce of Conestoga's spirit flies south with the ducks from the pond, the truth is that school spirit lurks in every student.

Students should ask themselves, 'Am I part of something here? Am I part of a community at the college or am I a single entity, completely separate from those around me?'

The college is whatever students want it to be, and it seems many are choosing a lifeless structure of concrete and cafeteria food.

Take note of what's out there; read the posters in the halls.

The DSA's nooners have been a success, and the movie night Sept. 9, where alcohol was served, was sold out.

DSA president April-Dawn Blackwell says school spirit is growing. She says students are sick of doing nothing.

But being a commuter college, and one that draws from every age group, a unified and consistent student body, which is essential for event planning and advertising, is hard to establish. If previous years are any indication, Blackwell has a tough year ahead of her.

School spirit goes beyond the DSA, however. There is not much they can do about abysmal sports event turnouts - one of Cone-stoga's most pitiful examples of school spirit.

There is absolutely no reason for empty stands when any of the Condors' teams are playing. Perhaps the DSA should be involved in sports promotion because the stands look to be empty for another year.

If students would only go to onc game, they may enjoy themselves enough to go again, but even one game seems too much to ask.

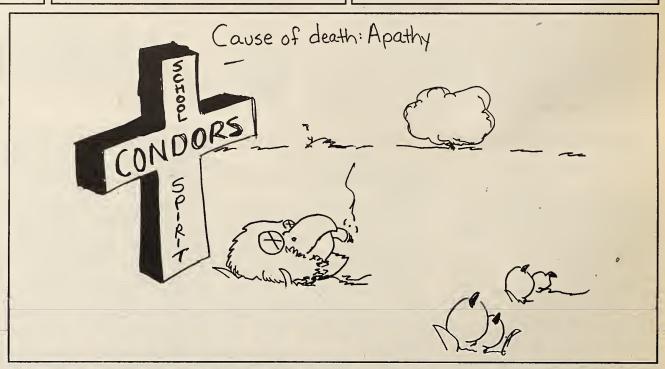
One bright spot on the sports horizon is the long list of sports students can sign up for at the intramural level. No matter what your level of play, intramurals are a lot of fun, and while a lot do, it is surprising more students don't sign up. As for DSA activities, nobody can say there aren't cnough.

Between the movie nights, nooners and winter carnival, bus trips, Octoberfest and pub nights, the DSA has an event planned nearly every week. And don't forget the Biz Bashes.

And if students don't want to participate in events, they are welcome to start a club, which the DSA may help finance.

There is really no reason to leave this school at the end of the day without having done something other than stare at a chalkboard and dutifully take notes.

Conestoga has something for everybody, students just need to make the small effort to see the community around them.



American hockey presence a reality

By Jason Romanko

A strange twist of events unfolded during the World Cup of Hockey division final in Ottawa on Sept. 8, in a game featuring the

United States against the Russians.

It wasn't the outcome, which was a 5-2 win by the U.S, but whom the Ottawa fans were cheering for.

The U.S team became public enemy No. 1, a spot usually reserved for the longtime rivals, the Russians.

The 18,500 sell-out crowd at the Ottawa Corel Centre focused attention on leftwinger Brett Hull with vicious screams of "traitor, traitor," at Hull who has dual citizenship. Everytime Hull touched the puck, the crowd booed.

Apparently fans are still hurt by Hull's decision not to play in the 1991 Canada Cup for Canada; he instead chose the

I believe there are some underlying reasons for the sudden support of the Russians over our longtime ally and neighbor.

Americans have in recent years become the biggest threat to Canada's game. The Americans have also found a new passion for hockey, which is good and bad for Canadians.

The bad being that the Americans always seem to take everything they want without asking. Taking without asking is very impolite to a nation that is known for its manners.

The Americans' nasty trait was evident in last year's playoffs when the Fox Network took over the Stanley Cup schedule, which held Canadian hockey fans prisoner to horrific timetables.

Plus, Canadian franchises have been migrating south, to what seems a neverending market, leaving a feeling of resentment throughout Canada.

But the real reason, after considering all the possibilities for cheering for the Russians instead of the Americans, is the fact that the Americans are playing good hockey.

Nothing hurts more than the truth, and many don't want to face the idea of the Americans getting to be as good as we at our sport.

It was only a matter of time before the Americans figured out what a great game hockey is.

The more Americans interested in hockey means the more people playing, the more people playing means more talent being developed.

The sheer populations numbers can make you start to sweat. Canada can produce an abundance of talent with a population of close to 30 million. But how many talented hockey players can be produced from a population close to 280 million?

My advice? Try not to think about it.

Students should have Internet access

By Peggy Sue Ironside

As clients of Conestoga College, students pay tuition for an education that should

include Internet access on campus.

Internet access links students with other people across the country, across the street, and around the world.

The value of the Internet goes much farther than simply accessing resources of information. It includes working with others and seeing what they do.

With the Internet everyone learns from their experiences with others.

What you have to offer to others is just as important as what you may get from

It is the interconnected nature of Internet that gives learning on the Internet its active, participatory quality.

For example, you may think the first

snowfall of the year in your area is a normal and rather boring event, but if you are connected to people who have never seen snow, what you have to say will mean a lot to them.

The learning experience students gain on the Internet provides them with the opportunity to be taken seriously.

They have instant access to hundreds of cducational databases, newspapers, maps and photographs.

They can quiz experts, take part in discussion groups and use handy Internet search tools.

The advantage of studies incorporated with Internet-based experiences is the outcome of the work.

The online forum provides a way, or set of ways, in which to see things differently than we do now.

With the recent surge in interest by business and government, the Internet network will be of major importance to tomorrow's world.

As a citizen of tomorrow, you need to

learn how to use the tools for exploring the Internet, its information and the peo-

We are an information economy, and new information technologies are changing the way business is done.

You encounter two kinds of things on the Internet: people and information. Both can help you progress in an academic career.

The people on the Internet are often more than eager to help out, providing answers to questions and engaging in thoughtful discussion.

There are clusters of resources or tools on the Internet that serve much the same purpose as their traditional library coun-

There are five different rooms a user can access: the card catalog, the reference room, the reading room, the media room, and the electronic stacks.

Almost all the Internet sites that you'll encounter have information available for free public access.

COMMENTARY

Discrimination on any level not acceptable

By Linda Reilly

There is discrimination on all levels — that's a given — but society has very little tolerance for people who are overweight.



Unfortunately our society has a thing about control, and ostensively, overweight people appear to be out of control.

The thinking appears to be that if a person can't control his weight, he can't manage a job, a life, be a good boss, etc.

In short, overweight people lack credibility. They become targets of ridicule and the people around them become blatantly disdainful.

Children find fat people funny. In the

workplace there is job discrimination; they are often not hired even though their credentials are good.

Overweight people get passed over for promotions at work and make less money than co-workers doing the same job.

They often get ignored when they need service; what they eat in a restaurant is scrutinized and salespeople take advantage of them — overweight people often get overcharged.

Discrimination is too soft a word — those who experience it say they are tortured on a daily basis

Some time ago, there was a series in the New York Times on obesity. A survey was taken on formerly obese women who had intestinal bypass surgery.

What really stood out was that over 50 per

cent said they would rather be deaf, blind, or have a limb amputated than be fat again.

Leslie Lampert, editor of Ladies Home Journal, read the series and had a 150pound fat suit constructed as an experiment.

She lived in the suit for one week. Lampert said nothing could have prepared her for the shame and disrespect imposed upon the overweight.

She said she had expected to be embarrassed and to feel ashamed but she didn't expect to be hated.

She said she was alternately treated as invisible or regarded as a spectacle. People snorted. She said grocery shopping was a nightmare.

People actually watched what she put in her cart and commented on it. People hurled insults at her from their cars.

In a restaurant, well-dressed people snickered and passed comments. These people felt entitled to let her know they disapproved of her.

No overweight person expects to be treated less than because they are more than, but they are — every day.

Overweight people endure the kind of openly contemptuous behavior most people never have to suffer.

The conclusion is that our society hates fat people and it feels entitled to participate in a prejudice that, as Lampert puts it, parallels racism and religious bigotry.

Canada is a country that prides itself on being sensitive to the handicapped and to the homeless, but the overweight continue to be targets of cultural abuse.

Who speaks for Canadian values?

By Rick Kew

Canadian citizens appealing to international bodies for support to use English within Canada is becoming commonplace.



Canadian politicians have caused this curious state by following a policy of appeasement when dealing with Quebec nationalists over the past 35 years.

Many people may be surprised to learn that in 1991, the United Nations ruled that Canada was violating Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantees freedom of expression.

The UN ruled on the case of a Quebec funeral home owner charged under Quebec's Bill 101 language law with refusing to remove English from a business sign.

In the early 1960s, Quebec nationalists, committed to a sovereign Quebec, demanded from the federal government more recognition for the French language in Canada.

Then prime minister Lester Pearson created a commission on bilingualism and biculturalism (B and B) and, as an olive branch to nationalists in Quebec, appointed Andre Laurendeau as chairman.

Laurendeau wanted to create a French nation within Canada, equal or superior to the rest of Canada.

In the '70s, Quebec premier Robert

Bourassa gave into cries that English was a threat to the survival of the province and passed legislation making French the official language of Quebec.

The B and B commission resulted in the Official Languages Act, guaranteeing the rights of French- and English-speaking people. Rather than a unifying force in Canada as hoped, the act led to acrimonious civic and political debate over the language issue.

Nationalist forces in Quebee later decried the value of the act saying it did nothing to further French in Quebec.

In an attempt to show nationalists that federalism works, Brian Mulroney appointed Lucien Bouchard Canadian ambassador to France. After the failure of the Meech Lake Accord, Bouchard said its failure proved Canada wanted to oppress Quebec.

To appease the separatists, Ottawa responded favorably to Quebec's demands for more federal spending within the province.

This response only increased the credibility of the separatists with Quebec voters and they became increasingly bold in oppressing English within Quebec.

The world now reads of Howard Galgonov, appealing to U.S. representatives for support to use English within Canada — how embarrassing for Canadians.

Isn't it time Canadian politicians started standing up for values that serve all Canadians — one of which should be the right to use the language of your choice?

Many reasons to hate the 401

By Bryce Wilson

It was during a recent trip to eastern Ontario that I became fully aware of how much I despise Highway 401.

As I sat in my unmov-

ing car, trapped in the stifling climate known as a traffic jam, my only wish was to be on a different highway — any highway.

Highway 401 is supposed to be the backbone of Ontario, shipping goods with ease to all nearby major markets. And Ontario is supposed to be the industrial backbone of Canada. So why is the highway such a pain to use?

And how is Ontario's marketplace supposed to rebound when the main means of transport operates so poorly.

There are two main problems with the highway that need serious improvement: the road itself and the drivers who use it.

Drivers can be categorized into several groups: First, there are the day-dreamers, who drive along in the passing lane (more often than not with a turn signal flashing), but who insist on driving more slowly than the flow of traffic.

These drivers should be charged because they force everyone else to swerve over and pass using the right lane.

Second, are the truckers who insist on passing each other only when driving up a hill. The problem is, trucks lose their momentum travelling up a slope and the pass ends up being more like a crawl.

Most annoying of all however, are the dri-

vers who can see that a lane is closed and that they have to merge, but pass everyone by and wait until the last possible second before cutting in. This gets them a few car lengths ahead of everyone else, saving them about 10 seconds.

Don't get me wrong, I have no problem with aggressive drivers. If anything, their efforts deserve respect. At least they pay attention to what they're doing, and keep the flow of traffic to a maximum.

And a maximum speed limit is hard to reach when construction has the highway closed down to one lane and backed up for miles.

It's understandable that highways need maintenance, but why can't the construction be done overnight, when there are fewer drivers?

And, when you finally get up to where the supposed construction is, what you usually find is workers standing around watching the cars going by.

Highway 401 was built for one purpose: to act as a high-speed conduit for travel and commerce. The problem is, it isn't working. Especially where it's needed most. Near metropolitan Toronto, the 401 is earning a reputation as one of the worst highways around and justifiably so.

Perhaps once all the construction, including the addition of Highway 407, is completed, the 401 will once again be a viable means for transportation.

Right now however, I find myself travelling on smaller highways whenever possible. Not for the better scenery but, ironically, for more speed.

Campus cafeteria food appeals to different tastes

by Trish Jackson

Students surveyed during the second week of classes showed they are generally satisfied with Doon campus's main cafeteria, although they did provide some suggestions.

"I think it's great," said first-year social services student Jennifer Fenton. "There are a lot of healthy choices. It's fresh and reasonably priced."

Fenton, who usually chooses from the salad bar, suggests the salad bar be refilled through the lunch period. On days when she has lunch scheduled at 12:30, she often finds the salad bar empty and the choices limited.

Shane Plante, in his first year of electronics engineering technology, is impressed by the cafeteria's variety.

"You can get what you want," he said. "I like to eat healthy, so it's good that there's more than just Harvey's."

Jill McClintock, a first-year law-and-secu-



Jennifer Fenton

it feasible, he said.

needs more vegetarian cuisine."

John Kast, district manager of Beaver

Foods, said though he recognizes students'

needs, there is not enough demand for spe-

cialty items such as vegetarian dishes. The

extra time and cost involved does not make



Shane Plante



Jill McClintock



Matt Venning



Mike Brandt



Qerime Alievski

rity administration student, usually buys muffins or salad, but because she's a vegetarian, she feels there is not enough variety. "It's limited for me," said McClintock. "It

available, she said.

Third-year nursing student Matt Venning, is satisfied with the food and selection in the main cafeteria, but said, "It is too expensive to buy every day."

Mike Brandt, first-year LASA student, favors the cafeteria's Taco Bell, "because

they are easy to sneak into class." He feels there is enough selection, but his biggest complaint is also prices. "I think with the amount of traffic here

they could price coffee lower," Brandt said.

Qerime Alievski, a visitor from Waterloo campus's food-and-beverage management program, who was dining at Harvey's, said "Waterloo cafeteria sucks." She said of Doon's cafeteria, "It's alright. There's more selection."

Project provides industry training

By Wendy Cummins

Ten new students will begin attending a training and development program at the Stratford campus Sept. 27.

Technical training for industry is a pilot project undertaken by Conestoga with FAG Bearings in Stratford. Taken over a 16-week period, the course will be a combination of theory and practice, said John Anderson, program co-

"They can see why they need the theory and apply it," he said.

The program also offers students an opportunity to work in the industry in a co-op placement. Students will rotate between the college and FAG Bearings.

For four weeks students will have in-class studies. The remaining 12 weeks will be in industry, although students will be in class once a week during that time.

The 10 students sent to FAG Bearings will be split among five departments within the company and every two weeks they will rotate to another department.

"We've done a lot of programs in the past, but without the co-op," said Anderson. "It's a great improvement."

A similar program was introduced between Conestoga and Linamar Corp. in Guelph last year, although it was on a much larger scale.

Stacey McSadzen, training and development co-ordinator of Linamar, said that the program has worked out well for them. "Students come out much farther ahead than people we'd get off the street."

Anderson said there are more lay-offs in Stratford than in recent years, which is why the program will do well. He approached the Stratford Training Network to see if the program would be of benefit.

"It is the kind of thing we need to do to stay current in the workplace and the industry," he said.

While at FAG Bearings the students will receive formal training as those processes have been set up. "They won't do production; it is training," Anderson said.

A lot of people have been calling about the program. "People have great work histories but they don't have current skills," he said. "We get quite a few students from the mid-life bracket with 10 to 15 years work experience."

Recreation leadership student wins concert tickets



WE HAVE A WINNER - DSA President April-Dawn Blackwell and John Kast, district manager for Beaver Foods, draw the winning ballot for the Smashing Pumpkins concert. (Photo by Scott Nixon)

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By Scott Nixon

Sept. 12 was a lucky day for Conestoga student Marsha Rudy.

The first-year recreation leadership student won two tickets to the Sept. 14 Smashing Pumpkins concert in Toronto.

Rudy also won a copy of the latest Smashing Pumpkins CD, Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness.

"I was really surprised," Rudy said, of winning the contest.

She said she thought it was ironic that she won because when she was filling out the ballot for the contest her friends told her she didn't have a chance of winning.

Kast said the contest was held in several colleges in Ontario but only some colleges were selected to award concert tickets.

Rudy, who had never seen the Smashing Pumpkins in concert before Sept. 14, described the concert as amazing and said she was impressed with how wellbehaved the audience was. 'Nothing got out of hand."

The Smashing Pumpkins have been plagued by controversy on their current tour. On May 11, at a Smashing Pumpkins concert in Dublin, a 17-year-old girl was crushed to death in the mosh pit.

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HE 3

NOONER FUN — The 3 Canadians, from left to right, Derek Flores, North Darling and Eric Amber entertained students in the Sanctuary Sept. 11. (Photo Linda Reilly)

As unpredictable as politics

The 3 Canadians ham it up in student lounge at free nooner

By Linda Reilly

"Free Nooner, free Nooner — he didn't do anything!"

That was one of the lines the 3 Canadians shouted as they read the free nooner sign above the stage in the Sanctuary while entertaining students Sept. 9.

Their infectious youth and energy finally stirred a rather sedate crowd.

Eric Amber, Derek Flores and North Darling do improvised comedy, or in the words of Amber "we make the shit up!"

When asked, after the performance, what happened to Ray Gurrie, the fourth member of the group, Flores said he only tours with them in Australia. There it's fun with a four-man trio, as Australia's Herald Sun labelled them.

The group just returned from a five-month stint in Australia where they appeared at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. They already have plans to return in February '97.

The group said they love Australia and plan to continue to spend five months a year there — "to escape the Canadian winters," Flores said.

According to Flores, the trio has been together three years now but has been doing improv for six.

Originally from the Loose Moose Theatre Company in Calgary, it wasn't until the trio went to Australia in 1993 and was dubbed the 3 Canadians, that they decided to team up.

"We needed a van to get around Australia," Flores said, "so we decided to form a group."

Improvisation comedy isn't everyone's taste, but when these comic improvisers joined forces, they combined 20 years experience at the Loose Moose Theatre Company.

Amber, according to Elisabeth Lopez's article in the Age EG magazine, is the happy victim of attention deficit disorder. He told her that the diagnosis came as a huge relief, but not soon enough to stop him from being expelled

from school and feeling like a terrible person. The article said he tried medication for a week but then decided to go back to the "personality God gave him."

The 3 Canadians have quickly gained a reputation for doing shows and pulling off incredible stunts according to the article.

Comfortable on both an indoor and outdoor stage, the 3 Canadians have toured many street festivals in Canada, Australia and the US.

Most recently they wrote and performed their own version of the 1959 Cecil B. Demille film Ben Hur. According to their press release, the "epic" is performed on stage in 75 minutes with bad puppets and even worse costumes.

It was a sell-out at the '96 Adelaide Fringe Festival and the '96 Melbourne International Comedy Festival, both in Australia.

As unpredictable as Canadian politics, the 3 Canadians will continue to do uni-gigs until their return to Australia in '97.

New international students welcomed

By Jennifer Dougall

If you see new faces around the college this fall, you might want to take a second look — some of those faces have come from farther than you would imagine.

This September, 35 students from around the globe began their studies at Conestoga, due to the recruitment efforts of the International Education Office.

The largest group of students has come from Hong Kong, Thailand and Pakistan. There are others from Botswana, Brazil, the Cayman Islands, China, Colombia, Germany, India, Japan, Macao, South Korea and Trinidad.

Larry Rechsteiner, the director of the International Education Office, anticipates at least 20 more new international students beginning classes in January.

Rechsteiner, who has run the office since the college began accepting international students five

years ago, said the college distiguishes itself by the level of service it gives to its students, which includes everything from picking them up from the airport to helping them find housing.

The idea to recruit international students to Conestoga was created with two goals in mind. One was to give Canadian students the opportunity to study alongside international students because they "are going to, probably in their lifetime, be doing a lot of work with international contacts," Rechsteiner said.

The other was to introduce international students into the community financially. "The international students do not receive any financial subsidy from the Canadian government," Rechsteinner said. "They pay full fees. They also pay for accommodation and recreation."

Conestoga offers special courses for new students who may need help with their English. They include an upper-intermediatelevel course called special English studies and a two-semester advanced-English course called general arts and science (language option). The courses prepare international students for the regular stream at school.

To enter the special English studies course at Conestoga, an international student must have a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 400. To enter the language option course, a score of 480 is required. For admittance into a regular course, the student must have a score of 500 or more.

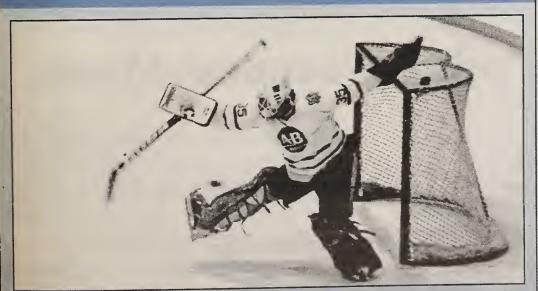
"It is somewhat unique in Ontario," Rechsteiner said. "We have students attending the [language option] program that go to Conestoga College and to the University of Waterloo and some go to the University of Guelph. It is accepted by all three institutions as meeting their English requirements."

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He shoots ...



Rolf Bordcondfer attempts to stop the puck at the rec centre arena Sept. 13. He and other Allen-Bradley employees play intramural hockey every Friday. (Photo by Bryce Wilson)

Ouch! Navels and nipples pierced in Sanctuary

By Eric Whitfield

A man with 10 extra holes in his body told Conestoga students on Sept. 10, "It's cool to be able to manipulate your body in any fashion."

Mike Sage, owner of Nnuba Body Piercing in London, showed students in the Sanctuary what is involved in body piercing.

Sage illustrated, with the help of a slide show, the many types of piercings performed throughout the world and in our society.

One of the examples showed was the Okee Pa ceremony, which was done by Sioux Indians. It involves a person being suspended by his flesh for one to five hours. The pain supposedly puts the person in a trance.

The Sadhu, a ceremony performed in India, involves a man suspended by hooks in his flesh until the hooks rip out of his body, Sage said.

Piercings which are more common in our society include nipple piercing for men and women, which increases sensitivity in that

Other types of piercing include: navel piercing – usually done on females – cheek piercing, tongue piercing, which Sage said gives the person something to play with in their mouth, nose-bridge piercing and septum piercing, where the ring sits under the bone.

Two of the slides, which caused moans in the audience, were of a penis piercing, called the Prince Albert, and a clitoris piercing, which went through the hood and is called a triangle piercing.

Another example of a piercing, which he talked about involved

placing small metal balls under the foreskin of the penis. It is like a ribbed condom, Sage said. "It's a sex toy built in."

Sage said, when he does the piercing, he first cleans the area with an iodine-based solution and then marks the spot with a surgical pen.

Sage said he has taken Tai Chi and uses his training to help the customers relax.

He tells the customer to take deep breaths and gives them a warning breath. When the customer exhales his final breath, he sticks a needle through the marked area.

Sage only uses disposable needles, he said, because people can get infected with viruses such as Hepatitis B when stud guns are used.

The most painful piercings are of the nipple, any cartilage, the nostril, the septum and the genital area, Sage said. "The more you know what to expect, the harder it is to sit down in the chair." Sage said, the optimum time for a second piercing is right after the first, right after endorphin is released into the body.

The crowd saw what a piercing was like first hand when he demonstrated two nipple piercings on his friend Corey, who didn't wish to have his last name used. He then did piercings for students for a fee.

Vicki Kane, a second-year recreation-leadership student, had her navel pierced. Kane said she did not know why she had it done but it is was cheaper than usual and Sage seemed like he knew what he was doing.

Sage said he has been a profes-



PAINFUL! — Mike Sage, pierces the nipple of his friend Corey, who asked to have his last name withheld, during a demonstration in the Sanctuary on Sept.10. (Photo by Eric Whitfield)

sional body piercer for two years and previously graduated from the Fakir Musafar School of Professional Body Piercing.

His clientele has ranged from 16 to 68 years of age, Sage said. For customers 16 and under he said there must be parental consent, the parent must be present and he will only pierce ears, noses or navels.



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Poor promotion and threat of rain hurts Sportsarama

By Eric Whitfield

Conestoga students were getting their heads bashed by clubs Sept. 11.

The DSA set up the Joust and the Bungee Run outside the recreation centre as part of Sportsarama, which involved two other sportsrelated activities.

The Joust involved two people beating each other with padded clubs in an attempt to knock their opponents off their pillar onto an air mattress below. Protective gear was provided to soften blows to the head.

Justin Ladouceur, a second-year recreation leadership student, said "it was enjoyable; I liked the contact and the competition."

The Bungee Run consisted of two lanes on an air mattress.

Two people raced to the end of the mattress to grab a piece of plastic with velcro wrapped around it. They were tied to the back of the air mattress with a

bungee cord making running to the end difficult.

Softball was another scheduled event which was cancelled because of the possibility of rain.

The only other scheduled event was volleyball, which Ladouceur said he didn't even know about.

Krista Ogg, vice-president of operations for the DSA, said there were not as many people as hoped. "The weather scared people away."

Chris Kroeker, DSA promotions assistant, said another reason people stayed away was because there was not enough promotion. More promotion went towards the movie Twister and the Ashley MacIsaac concert.

Kroeker and Ogg recommended the event be held earlier in the day next year. People were driving by and leaving school when they saw the two air mattresses.

Despite the few people, Ogg said, they were still having fun with those who attended.



ON THE RUN — Chris Kroeker, left, DSA promotions assistant, races against Todd McIver, a second-year recreational leadership student and a member of the student athletic committee, on the bungee run during Sportsarama on Sept. 11. (Photo by Eric Whitfield)

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SPORTS

Condors battle Woodstock Navy Vets to a draw

By Ross McDermott

The Conestoga Condors came from behind twice to tie the Junior C Woodstock Navy Vets 5-5 in exhibition hockey Sept. 15 at the Woodstock Community Complex.

Condor Chris Punlabeski opened the scoring with a power-play goal early in the first period, chipping in a loose puck in front of the Navy Vet's net.

The Condors jumped ahead by two goals mid-way through the first period when Rich Duench scored on another powerplay.

The Navy Vets would not be silenced however, as they answered with three quick goals to take a one goal lead at the end of the first period.

The second period was quiet until the 10-minute mark when Jason Cartier fired a point shot that slipped through the sprawling Navy Vet goaltender's legs, tying the game at 3-3.

The Navy Vets answered at the 15-minute mark of the second period when the puck took a

strange hop off of the boards behind the Condor's net and bounced onto the stick of Drew Campbell who slammed it in for the go-ahead goal.

With less than two minutes remaining in the second period, the Navy Vets scored again on a tight-passing two-on-one play that ended with the puck in the Condor's net.

The Condors dominated the play in the third period. Rích Duench scored his second goal of the game to bring the Condors to within one, and just passed the 10minute mark of the period Dale Henery scored on a floating point shot that handcuffed the Navy Vet net-minder.

It was the second time these two teams met in exhibition play. On Sept. 14 the Condors came back from a three-goal deficit to defeat the Navy Vets 6-5.

Condor coach Tony Martindale said he was generally pleased with

the team's performance, but said he thinks the players need to focus more on team playing.

"We didn't play a total team game. There was stuff going on after the whistle that I wasn't too pleased about. When you're playing a team game that stuff shouldn't be happening."

He did concede it was still early in the season, and teams can sometimes get distracted.

DSA organizes golf tournament

By Jason Romanko

Forty-four Conestoga students and faculty turned out for the annual Doon Student Association's Texas Scramble golf tournament on Sept. 13 at the Doon Valley Golf Club.

The term, Texas Scramble, also known as a best-ball tournament involves a team of four golfers. Each golfer in the team shoots and the best shot out of the four is used by the team for the next shot, and so on for all 18 holes.

Steve Harris, DSA promotions

assistant and second-year broadcasting student, said they use this format is used because it speeds the game up and lowers the score.

Chris Krocker, promotions assistant, along with Harris organized the tournament.

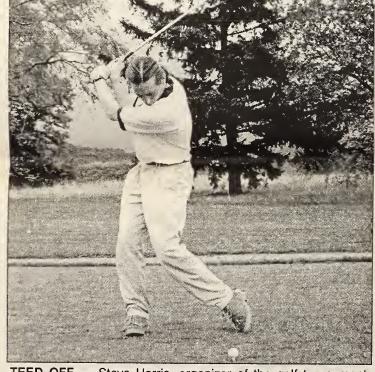
First place in the tournament went to the team of Wayne Hussey, executive director of college community relations. The team included: Chris Anderson, accounting, Brennen Smith, mechanical engineering technician and Jeremy Vanl-aecke, accounting.

"It was a lot of fun, I was very pleased about meeting three great guys," Hussey said. The rain proved to be a bit much, but Hussey said he still had a great time. They finished the tournament with a score of 6-under-par.

Jason Lane, engineering; Todd Strauss, business; Brandon Flood, business and Aaron Fitzgerald, business, came in second with a score of 5-under-par.

The team of Ian Read, marketing; Jeremy Snider and Scott McGwen, both of woodworking and John Tarantello, accounting, came in third with a score of 4-under-par.

The longest shot of the tournament went to Dan Thornhill and closest to the tee went to Jeremy Snider, business.



TEED OFF — Steve Harris, organizer of the golf tournament, drives the ball to the third hole at Doon Valley. (Photo by Sean S. Finlay)

Women's softball record first victory

By Rick Kew

After having their first two league-games rained out, the women's varsity softball team recorded their first victory of the season, Sept. 15, edging out the visiting Canadore Panthers 4-3.

The Condors opened the scoring in the bottom of the second inning on a run by Jill Kuntz, a first-year recreation leadership student.

The North Bay Panthers fought back and scored twice in the third inning and once in the fourth, taking a two-run lead into the fifth inning.

With the dark skies threatening with rain, the Condors held the visitors scoreless in the top of the fifth.

As some spectators pulled their hoods up for protection, right-fielder Shelley Remmert took advantage of the wind, blasting a drive to deep right-centre, notching the first home run of the season for the Condors.

In the bottom of the seventh

inning, with the score tied 3-3, Remmert forced the sun to shine on the Condors as she drove in the winning run with a stand-up double.

Condor coach Yvonne Broome said the game was a repeat of last year, when many games were decided by clutch seventh-inning hitting.

Remmert, a second-year law and security student, three-for-three on the day, with a homer, a double, and a single, was named player of the game.

The women's softball team was to play Seneca College Sept. 18 and is scheduled to host Mohawk College Oct. 2.

Broome said rained-out games Sept. 13, against the Durham College Lady Lords and Sept. 14 against the Loyalist College Lancers, will likely be rescheduled as doubleheaders when Conestoga hosts those teams later in the season.

In other varsity action last week, the women's soccer team defeated the Kitchener under-19s, 5-0, in an exhibition game Sept. 11.

This was the third win this year for the women's soccer team as they defeated the Sir Sanford Fleming Auks and host team, the Durham College Lady Lords, to win the Kick-off Extravaganza Tournament.

The men's soccer team was not as fortunate losing their games against Durham and Sir Sanford Fleming Colleges by 3-0 scores.

The men's soccer team was to host Fanshawe Sept. 18, St. Clair Sept. 21 and plays Seneca Sept. 28 in an exhibition game.

The women's soccer team was to see action at home against St. Clair, Sept. 21 and on Sept. 24 they host Lambton.

The hockey team opened their exhibition season Sept. 14, with a 6-5 victory over the Woodstock Navy Vets, a Jr C team.

Greg Nichol, a first-year computer student, turned a hat trick including the winning goal with 1:02 remaining in the game.

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ENTERTAINMENT

New Adventures propels R.E.M. to excellence

By Doug Coxson

It has been 16 years and the release of several classic albums since the members of R.E.M. decided, after meeting at university in a drunken haze, to form a rock band—hard to believe lead guitarist Peter Buck turns 40 this year.

They've forged their path to success by releasing album after album of masterful pop, complex and lyrical rock songs and an obligatory but brilliant collection of videos.

After listening to the followup to 1994's over-hyped and somewhat disappointing Monster, it is obvious why R.E.M.'s record company was willing to bid as high as they did - \$80 million - to keep the band under contract. New Adventures In Hi-Fi is a stunning return for the band which, while on a world tour for Monster, was plagued by illness: drummer Bill Berry suffered a brain aneurysm; bassist Mike Mills underwent intestinal surgery and lead singer Michael Stipe had a hernia. There won't be a tour for this

It was during the exhausting Monster tour though that all the songs on New Adventures were written and recorded. Its sound, pieced together from the discordant grunge of Monster and 1992's subdued, but hauntingly-beautiful Automatic For The People, is a masterpiece to rival any of their previous releases.

From the opening track, How The West Was Won And Where It Got Us, with Mills' catchy piano interlude accenting Stipe's halting narrative, to the jarring rocker, The Wake-Up Bomb, in which Stipe rails against the excesses of fame and states, "I threw up when I saw what I'd done," New Adventures propels R.E.M. into new territory while maintaining a hold on the familiar sound of their past.

sound of their past.

In the song Leave, the best on the album, powered by Buck's grinding guitar and Berry's driving beat over a whirling synthesizer, Stipe has to, "Suffer dreams of a world gone mad," to understand "that's what keeps me down."

The first single, E-Bow The Letter, is a stream-of-consciousness rant that seems to reflect the conflict pop stars have with their own fame.

Stipe questions, "This fame thing, I don't get it. This star thing, I don't get it," while guest vocalist Patti Smith, one of Stipe's heroes, croons, "I'll take you over there."

If any of the five albums in their new contract are only half as good as this one, then fans of the band have several years of great music to look forward

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Writer's Festival overcomes rain with author's words

By Linda Reilly

Eden Mills eighth annual Writer's Festival drew 2,000 people fewer than last year Sept. 8. Except for a little drizzle, the

rain held off

Nevertheless, the festival was moved to nearby Edgewood Camp where stages were erected in a hall and under two large canopies.

Margaret Atwood, Canadian

author of more than 25 books of poetry, fiction and non-fiction, launched her latest book, Alias Grace, at the festival.

Atwood read excerpts from her novel which is based on the 1834

double murder of a Richmond Hill man and his housekeeper-mistress. One of the accused, Grace Marks, man's maidservant, was barely 16 years old. In prison since 16, Grace "became skilled at overhearing. It was not easy being quiet and good," Atwood read.

After the reading, Atwood was on hand to a u t o g r a p h copies of her book.

A festival first, CBC interviewer Shelagh Rogers conducted a live interview with storyteller Allistair McLeod, whose two collections of short stories earned him a reputation as "the Cape Breton writer."

McLeod, a professor of English at the University of Windsor, also did a short reading from his latest book-in-progress.

Also at the festival was author Marilyn Dumont. A young Metis woman, Dumont has written a moving and powerful book on the emotions and reality of growing up and surviving with native culture in a white-dominated society.

She read excerpts from her new book entitled, A Really Good Brown Girl.

There was also a mystery tent at the festival under the direction of Jon Oram, curator of Collway Theatre, a community-oriented theatre project in England.

The mystery tent was part of the festival which was rained out Sept. 7.

Organizers said they were pleased, poor weather aside.



READING IN THE RAIN — Margaret Atwood was on hand at the 8th annual Writer's Festival in Eden Mills to sign copies of her latest book, Alias Grace, which was launched at the Festival Sept. 9 (Photo by Linda Reilly)

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ENTERTAINMENT

Kansas City flaps its wings but fails to fly

By Diana Loveless

Corruption, greed, kidnapping, murder and true love try desperately to find common ground in Robert Altman's *Kansas City*, but fail miserably, leaving the film hopelessly fragmented.

Set on the eve of the 1934 presidential election in the United States, Altman's tale dances around Blondie (Jennifer Jason Leigh), a desperate woman who kidnaps the opium-addicted wife (Miranda Richardson) of Henry Stilton (Michael Murphy), one of Roosevelt's political hacks.

Blondie promises to kill Stilton's wife if he doesn't use his political clout to help rescue her small-time hood husband, Johnny O'Hara (Dermot Mulroney), who has crossed gangster Seldom Seen (Harry Belafonte), a who has him holed up at the Hey Hey Club, a seedy Kansas City jazz club.

Altman, who directed the hugely successful television series MASH and the critically acclaimed 1992 film *The Player*, doesn't seem to know where he's going with this film.

Though the plot predictably brings all the players together in the end, it follows an annoyingly repetitive pattern guided by the overdone sounds of Dixieland jazz greats Lester Young and Coleman Hawkins.

It becomes clear that Blondie has no desire or will to harm Red as the story switches back and forth between their burgeoning friendship and the belabored scenes with Seldom Seen and Johnny at the Hey Hey Club.

Altman's American saga is grounded by mediocre performances by all the players — including Belafonte doing his very best impression of Marlon Brando and Leigh with a toughtalkin', hard-bitten repeat performance of her roles in Last Exit to Brooklyn, Hudsucker Proxy and The Dorothy Parker Story — and a plot line which unfolds with excrutiating monotony.

Lounge music never sounded so good

By Bruce Manion

In this age of compilation CDs, it's not hard to imagine yet another CD to hit the market with a mixture of some of the newer popular hits along with a variety of the past classics.

However, try to imagine a CD with all these great songs converted to cocktail music where the high-pitched notes of the xylophone rule. In fact, this CD reeks of somebody's warped idea of a Las Vegas lounge act.

With this stated, is it surprising Cocktail: Shakin' and Stirred is selling out at record stores everywhere? Not at all.

The CD, presented by Jaymz Bee and the Royal Jelly Orches-

tra, is a completely serious production of 11 of the jazziest cocktail songs and at the same time is quite funny.

However it is classified, it is definitely novel in its approach.

Songs, like Alanis Morrisette's You Oughta Know, Crash Test Dummies' Superman's Song and Steppenwolf's Born to be Wild, are meant to be campy.

While others, like Turn Me Loose, American Woman, Takin' Care of Business, Run to You and Sunglasses at Night are more reflective and mellow renditions with the tempos slowed down to a Frank Sinatra level.

Spaceship Superstar and Closer to the Heart defy description and brutally rebuff the original songs.

Regardless of the comic value of this CD, it is evident each band took care and precision to find the perfectly matched instruments to create the overall eccentricity of each song. All of the album's weird and demented sounds soon grew to resemble their originals.

At the risk of committing musical blasphemy, it should be mentioned that some of these cocktail songs required more talent to produce than the rock versions.

Originally, though, I intended to buy this CD for the review only and then return it afterwards. Only now have I seen its lasting value and been converted.

So grab me a cocktail, would you?

Spotlight stage left:

A view of guitarist Stuart Cameron

By Jason Seads

Stuart Cameron, now touring with Ashley MacIsaac, hasn't been home since June, and that was only for five days. Before that, he guessed it was April or May when he was home last.

The lead guitarist for the band said he doesn't like travelling or being away from home very much, but performing makes up for everything.

"I love performing — that's

where the most enjoyment is for

Although he doesn't like travelling, Cameron said Ireland was great. "The fans in Ireland are cool. We went to Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Glasgow and the bars were always packed." Cameron's favorite beer was Caffrey's Cream Ale, which he tried "not to drink too much of."

"Once I arrive at a destination I enjoy myself but I hate getting there."

The Halifax native said the band also played a Celtic festival in Denmark that was incredible.

Cameron said one of his darkest moments was in Toronto only two weeks ago. The morning of the Rita McNeil show, Cameron's only two guitars were stolen outside their hotel, including a custom-made Song guitar. "I would love to meet the pricks who stole my stuff. They are going to have a hard time selling my Song, because there is only one."



